

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

29 MAR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Frondizi falls

After a day of notable confusion, the armed forces deposed and arrested him early this morning. Plans for his disposal are unknown. No disorders have so far been reported. The military have announced that Senate President Guido, the constitutional successor, will replace Frondizi, but Guido has not confirmed his acceptance [REDACTED]

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2. Laos

a. Sullivan reports Phoumi more stubborn and obstructive than ever. Sullivan will go to the Plaine des Jarres tomorrow.

b. Meanwhile, the British Ambassador has returned from talking to Souvanna and Souphannouvong. Souvanna [REDACTED]

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is determined to leave for Paris on Tuesday. He has no intention of surrendering his mandate, however, and he and Souphannouvong believe it will take two or three months for US and other pressures to soften Phoumi up.

c. Souphannouvong, while claiming he had no intention of taking "important places" such as Nam Tha, also claimed that Phoumi was taking provocative action in reinforcing the town.

3. Congo

a. Adoula and Tshombé yesterday exchanged communiques at long range. While neither showed any inclination to break off the talks, neither made any concessions, and Tshombé has renewed his insistence that any agreement be ratified by the Katangan Assembly. Adoula, in an attempt to break the deadlock, has called for members of all provisional assemblies, including the Katangan, to meet at Lovanium University on Monday.

b. The UN has apparently bought the plan to bring pressure on Tshombé by collecting mining taxes in Katanga, and has authorized Gardiner, its representative in Leopoldville, to undertake this whenever he thinks it necessary. Gardiner is willing but is afraid--as is Spaak--that Tshombé will resist such pressure tactics and that implementation of the plan will precipitate another round of fighting between UN and Katangan forces. He

has some doubts that the UN force now in Katanga can do the job.

4. Berlin

a. Eight Soviet flights yesterday and four early this morning have been completed with no incidents so far reported.

b. The East German Customs law was passed yesterday.

5. France-Algeria

The Algerians, while still suspicious of French Army intentions, appear pleased with the action so far taken against the OAS. The French have been on the psychological defensive, however, since their troops fired into a European crowd on Monday; the OAS is playing up the fact that these troops were Moslems in an effort to divide the army and intensify European emotions.

6. Syria

Ambassador Knight believes the new regime will take the line that foreign recognitions of the earlier government (i.e. that set up after the split with Egypt) are still valid. The regime states that a new civilian provisional government will be set up in a few days. There has been some relaxation of alert status on both sides of the Syrian-Israeli border.

7. Latin American group
in UN split over
Cuban attendance

Argentina, Colombia, and "some" Central American countries want Cuba excluded from UN meetings. Bolivia threatens to withdraw if Cuba is excluded, and Brazil, Ecuador, and Mexico are also opposed.

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8. Competition for control
of Angolan nationalist
movement

Holden Roberto's Angolan People's Union is losing ground to the Communist backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, and is under pressure to merge with it. Roberto is trying to divert this pressure by setting up a "national front" which will take in all factions except the Communists [redacted] to form a provisional government.

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9. Situation in British
Guiana remains chaotic

Colonial Office Undersecretary Fraser has returned to London pessimistic about the colony's future and anxious that Britain quit the colony as soon as possible. The British have apparently not yet decided whether to postpone the independence conference scheduled for May.

NOTES

- A. There have been no major new developments relating to West New Guinea. [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] 50X1
- B. The Soviet missile range ships have now turned east and appear headed toward the same general area of the Central Pacific where they have operated previously. [REDACTED] 50X1
- C. Embassy Ottawa forwards a report that the Canadian parliament will be dissolved next week, with elections to be held in June.
[REDACTED]
- E. The urgent meeting in Moscow which we reported Saturday now appears to have been urgent only because Khrushchev was scheduled to sneak. He gave a routine pep-talk on agriculture. [REDACTED] 50X1
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- F. The Chinese Communists, taking up where they left off with U Nu, are trying hard to butter up Ne Win.
- G. Balaguer's efforts to intervene in Dominican politics from Puerto Rico are developing strong resentment in Santo Domingo.
- H. An uprising in the south of Ecuador appears under control, but military leaders and conservative politicians are still waiting their chance to oust Arosemena.
- I. Embassy Madrid reports that recent US gestures toward Spain have been well received.

WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--28 March 1962

No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

Berlin: Soviet harassing and probing tactics against Allied access to Berlin will continue and may be intensified in an attempt to maintain a sense of urgency on the Berlin question. There are tentative indications of impending Warsaw Pact training exercises, but Bloc military activity in general suggests that the Communists do not intend their actions to provoke military confrontation in the immediate future.

Laos: We continue to believe it unlikely that the Communists intend to renew major hostilities in the immediate future.

South Vietnam: In spite of vigorous government military operations, the Viet Cong continue aggressive operations against lines of communications and isolated guard posts. Suspected enemy airdrops suggest that the Viet Cong are building up their strength in the plateau region of the country.

Indonesia: Dutch and Indonesian military moves in the aftermath of the recent Indonesian infiltrations of West New Guinea territory may further jeopardize the currently stalled political negotiations.

Syria-Israel: Although neither Syria nor Israel desires major hostilities at this time, both have deployed and alerted forces in the Lake Tiberias area, and further clashes are likely.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

I.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE